

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A prosthetic foot comprising:

BC1
a foot plate element [having a length approximately equal to the length of a human foot], the foot plate element comprising a resilient material capable of flexing along its length;

at least one ankle plate element [having a length substantially shorter than the foot plate element];

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an ankle block comprising a relatively soft, compressible material sandwiched between the ankle plate element and the foot plate element, the ankle block providing substantially the sole means of support and connection between the foot plate element and the ankle plate element; and *viewed collectively*

at least one opening extending at least partially through the ankle block [with a substantially transverse orientation relative to a forward walking motion];

whereby the foot plate element and the ankle block flex in a cooperative manner to provide substantially smooth and continuous rollover transition from heel-strike to toe-off].

2.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 1, further comprising a stiffener positioned inside the opening.

8.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 7, wherein the stiffener is made of foam.

11.-61. (Canceled)

62. (Amended) A prosthetic foot comprising:

band
a foot plate element;

at least one ankle plate element disposed above the foot plate element; and

at least one foam ankle block positioned between the ankle plate element and the foot plate element, the ankle block including at least one opening extending at least partially through the ankle block.

63.-65. (Canceled)

66. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 62, wherein the opening is cylindrical.

67. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 62, wherein the opening extends entirely through the ankle block.

68. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 67, wherein the opening has a substantially transverse orientation relative to a forward walking motion.

69. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 67, wherein the opening is adapted to receive a stiffener therein.

70. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 69, further comprising a stiffener positioned inside the opening.

71. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 70, wherein the stiffener is removable from the opening.

72. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 70, wherein the stiffener is made of foam.

73. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 62, wherein the foot plate element has a curvilinear shape.

74. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 62, wherein the foot plate element has a length between about 5 and 15 inches.

75. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 62, wherein the foot plate element comprises a single foot plate having a length approximately equal to the length of a human foot.

76. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 62, wherein the ankle plate element is shorter in length than the foot plate element.

77. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 62, wherein the ankle plate element transitions into a substantially curved ankle section.

78. (Original) The prosthetic foot of Claim 62, wherein the ankle block comprises substantially the sole means of support and connection between the foot plate element and the ankle plate element.

79. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 1, wherein the foot plate element has a length approximately equal to the length of a human foot.

80. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 1, wherein the at least one opening has a substantially transverse orientation relative to a forward walking motion.

81. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 1, wherein the foot plate element and the ankle block flex in a cooperative manner to provide substantially smooth and continuous rollover transition from heel-strike to toe-off.

82. (New) A prosthetic foot comprising:
a foot plate element;
at least one ankle plate element disposed above the foot plate element; and
at least one ankle block positioned between the ankle plate element and the foot plate element; wherein
the ankle block has a thickness of no less than about one-half inch over an entire length thereof; and
the ankle block includes at least one opening extending at least partially therethrough.
83. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the ankle block is made of a compressible material.
84. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the ankle block is made of urethane. *explain*
85. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the opening is cylindrical.
86. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the opening extends entirely through the ankle block. *B3 call*
87. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 86, wherein the opening has a substantially transverse orientation relative to a forward walking motion.
88. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 86, wherein the opening is adapted to receive a stiffener therein.
89. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 88, further comprising a stiffener positioned inside the opening.
90. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 89, wherein the stiffener is removable from the opening.
91. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the foot plate element has a curvilinear shape.
92. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the foot plate element has a length between about 5 and 15 inches. *explain*
93. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the foot plate element comprises a single foot plate having a length approximately equal to the length of a human foot.

94. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the ankle plate element is shorter in length than the foot plate element.

95. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the ankle plate element transitions into a substantially curved ankle section.

96. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the ankle block comprises substantially the sole means of support and connection between the foot plate element and the ankle plate element.

97. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the ankle block has a thickness of no less than about 0.8 inches over an entire length thereof. *explain*

98. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 82, wherein the ankle block has a thickness of no less than about one inch over an entire length thereof.

99. (New) A prosthetic foot comprising:

a foot plate element;

at least one ankle plate element disposed above the foot plate element; and

at least one ankle block positioned between the ankle plate element and the foot plate element; wherein

the foot plate element and the ankle plate element comprise discrete elements; and

the ankle block includes at least one opening extending at least partially therethrough.

100. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the ankle block is made of a compressible material.

101. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the ankle block is made of urethane.

102. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the opening is cylindrical.

103. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the opening extends entirely through the ankle block.

104. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 103, wherein the opening has a substantially transverse orientation relative to a forward walking motion.

105. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 103, wherein the opening is adapted to receive a stiffener therein.

106. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 105, further comprising a stiffener positioned inside the opening.

107. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 106, wherein the stiffener is removable from the opening.

108. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the foot plate element has a curvilinear shape.

109. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the foot plate element has a length between about 5 and 15 inches.

110. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the foot plate element comprises a single foot plate having a length approximately equal to the length of a human foot.

111. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the ankle plate element is shorter in length than the foot plate element.

112. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the ankle plate element transitions into a substantially curved ankle section.

113. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 99, wherein the ankle block comprises substantially the sole means of support and connection between the foot plate element and the ankle plate element.

114. (New) A prosthetic foot comprising:

a foot plate element;

at least one ankle plate element disposed above the foot plate element; and

at least one ankle block positioned between the ankle plate element and the foot plate element; wherein

at least a forward extent of the ankle plate element is spaced from the foot plate element; and

the ankle block includes at least one opening extending at least partially therethrough.

115. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the ankle block is made of a compressible material.

116. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the ankle block is made of urethane.

117. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the opening is cylindrical.

118. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the opening extends entirely through the ankle block.

119. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 118, wherein the opening has a substantially transverse orientation relative to a forward walking motion.

120. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 118, wherein the opening is adapted to receive a stiffener therein.

121. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 119, further comprising a stiffener positioned inside the opening.

122. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 120, wherein the stiffener is removable from the opening.

123. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the foot plate element has a curvilinear shape.

124. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the foot plate element has a length between about 5 and 15 inches.

125. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the foot plate element comprises a single foot plate having a length approximately equal to the length of a human foot.

126. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the ankle plate element is shorter in length than the foot plate element.

127. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the ankle plate element transitions into a substantially curved ankle section.

128. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the ankle block comprises substantially the sole means of support and connection between the foot plate element and the ankle plate element.

129. (New) The prosthetic foot of Claim 114, wherein the ankle plate element is spaced from the foot plate element along an entire length thereof.